

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have not been further amended. The references still fail to teach or suggest all the features of the claims. Claims 7-9, 17-18, and 27-28 were cancelled per the previous response. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the finality of the Office Action.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(b)

Claims 1, 6-10, 15-19, and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,557,722 issued to DeRose et al. (hereinafter "DeRose") in view of U.S. Publication No 2003/0163784 published to Daniel (hereinafter "Daniel"). Claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over DeRose in view of Daniel and further in view of Ayers, L., "AbiWord's Potential," Linux Gazette, Issue 43, July 1999 (hereinafter "Ayers"), downloaded by the examiner on December 20, 2005, from: www.linuxgazette.com/issue43/ayers.html, downloaded pages 1-4. Claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over DeRose in view of Daniel and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,119,136 issued to Takata ("Takata"). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection. Independent claim 1 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or suggested by the cited reference:

a first component that is arranged to edit an electronic document having editable objects;

a second component that is arranged to define a first location for the start of an editable object region for which a level of editing permission for a specific user is desired and to define a second location for the end of the editable object region, wherein the level of editing permission is indicated by a unique identifier;

a third component that is arranged to associate a user identifier for the specific user with the text region that is defined by the first and second locations, wherein the user identifier indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier;

a fourth component that is arranged to encode in an ML format in the electronic document, a first element that defines the first location, and a second element that defines the second location, wherein the first or second element further comprises the user identifier; and

a fifth component that is arranged to output an ML file that comprises the ML-encoded electronic document and the first and second elements.

Applicants assert that the above combination of features is not taught or suggested by the references. DeRose generally pertains to the rendering of electronic documents. DeRose teaches hiding or securing a document in general. As the Office Action Admits, DeRose does not teach a level of editing permission indicated by a unique identifier and where the identifier indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier. In that DeRose does not teach this feature, DeRose cannot possibly teach encoding of the feature into an ML document. Stated another way, DeRose cannot possibly teach encoding "in an ML format in the electronic document, a first element that defines the first location, and a second element that defines the second location, wherein the first or second element further comprises the user identifier."

Daniel does not remedy the lack of teaching in DeRose. As cited by the Office Action, Daniel is teaching logging onto a website using a user ID and password. Daniel teaches that "[a] given author, course administrator, etc, would be identified by the central network (with which the authoring tool is communicating) according to his or her user ID and password pair information being stored in the database system, thereby identifying, and defining the appropriate rights and permission for, valid users.) *Daniel* at para. [0093]. Daniel does not teach encoding "in an ML format in the electronic document, a first element that defines the first location, and a second element that defines the second location, wherein the first or second element further comprises the user identifier." Daniel teaches logging onto a secured website. Accordingly, claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 10 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or suggested by the cited reference:

defining a first location for the start of an editable object region for which *a level of editing permission for a specific user* is desired, *wherein the level of editing permission is indicated by a unique identifier*;

defining a second location for the end of the editable object region;

associating a user identifier for the specific user with the text region that is defined by the first and second locations, *wherein the user identifier indicates*

the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier; and

encoding in an ML format the electronic document, a first element that defines the first location, and a second element that defines the second location, wherein the first or second element further comprises the user identifier.

Applicants assert that the above combination of features is not taught or suggested by the references. As the Office Action admits, DeRose does not teach a level of editing permission indicated by a unique identifier and where the identifier indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier. In that DeRose does not teach this feature, DeRose cannot possibly teach encoding of the feature into an ML document. Stated another way, DeRose cannot possibly teach encoding "in an ML format in the electronic document, a first element that defines the first location, and a second element that defines the second location, wherein the first or second element further comprises the user identifier."

Daniel does not remedy the lack of teaching in DeRose. As cited by the Office Action, Daniel is teaching logging onto a website using a user ID and password. Daniel teaches that "[a] given author, course administrator, etc, would be identified by the central network (with which the authoring tool is communicating) according to his or her user ID and password pair information being stored in the database system, thereby identifying, and defining the appropriate rights and permission for, valid users.) *Daniel* at para. [0093]. Daniel does not teach encoding "in an ML format in the electronic document, a first element that defines the first location, and a second element that defines the second location, wherein the first or second element further comprises the user identifier." Daniel teaches logging onto a secured website. Accordingly, claim 10 is in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 19 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or suggested by the cited reference:

an electronic document file that comprises editable objects;

an editor that is arranged to define a first location for the start of an editable object region for which a level of editing permission for a specific user is desired, wherein the level of editing permission is indicated by a unique identifier, to define a second location for the end of the editable object region, and to associate a user identifier for the specific user with the text region that is defined by the first

and second locations, wherein the user identifier indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier; and

an encoder that is configured to encode in an ML format the electronic document, a first element that defines the first location, and a second element that defines the second location, wherein the first or second element further comprises the user identifier.

Applicants assert that the above combination of features is not taught or suggested by the references. DeRose generally pertains to the rendering of electronic documents. *DeRose*, at Abstract. As the Office Action admits, DeRose does not teach a level of editing permission indicated by a unique identifier and where the identifier indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier. In that DeRose does not teach this feature, DeRose cannot possibly teach encoding of the feature into an ML document. Stated another way, DeRose cannot possibly teach "an encoder that is configured to encode in an ML format the electronic document, a first element that defines the first location, and a second element that defines the second location, wherein the first or second element further comprises the user identifier."

Daniel does not remedy the lack of teaching in DeRose. As cited by the Office Action, Daniel is teaching logging onto a website using a user ID and password. Daniel teaches that "[a] given author, course administrator, etc, would be identified by the central network (with which the authoring tool is communicating) according to his or her user ID and password pair information being stored in the database system, thereby identifying, and defining the appropriate rights and permission for, valid users.) *Daniel* at para. [0093]. Daniel does not teach "an encoder that is configured to encode in an ML format the electronic document, a first element that defines the first location, and a second element that defines the second location, wherein the first or second element further comprises the user identifier." Daniel teaches logging onto a secured website. Accordingly, claim 19 is in condition for allowance.

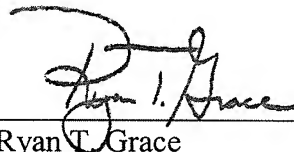
With regard to the dependent claims, the dependent claims include subject matter that is not taught or suggested by the cited references. Also, those claims ultimately depend from the independent claims above. As such, they should be found allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above.

II. Request for Reconsideration

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



Ryan T. Grace

Registration No. 52,956

Direct Dial: 206.342.6258

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
206.342.6200

